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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Eiko MASATASUJI, et al

Appln. No.: 09/492,763

Group Art Unit: 1614

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: V. Kim

Filed: January 27, 2000

For Dermal Agent

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We, Toshi Tsuzuki, Shinobu, Itoh and Eiji Ogata of c/o Showa Denko K.K., 13-9, Shiba Daimon 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8518 Japan hereby declare and state:

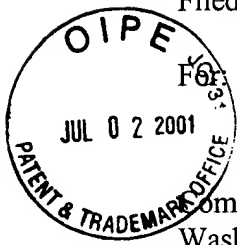
THAT we are citizens of Japan;

THAT we are co- inventors of the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-identified U.S. patent application and hence we are fully familiar therewith.

THAT we are familiar with the Office Action dated March 1, 2001, in which the Examiner asserts that claims 1-6 and 9 of the above-identified application are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Suzuki et al (EP 884,321) (EP '421).

THAT we are joint inventors of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in EP '421 cited against the above-identified application.

THAT the disclosure in EP '421 upon which the Examiner relies in the above-mentioned rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) was derived from us.



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THAT we invented the subject matter disclosed in the EP '421 reference upon which the Examiner relies.

We declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: Jun. 5, 2001

Toshi Tsuzuki
Toshi Tsuzuki

Date: June 5, 2001

Shinobu Itoh
Shinobu Itoh

Date: June 5, 2001

Eiji Ogata
Eiji Ogata